

## Message Text

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13

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 DRC-01

/178 W

----- 017686

R 141855Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7017

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, CS, XK

SUBJECT: COMMON MARKET'S HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE MEETING POSTPONED

REF: SAN JOSE 1815

1. AT THE REQUEST OF HONDURAS THE FIFTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE (CAN) FOR THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET (CACM) ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR SAN JOSE HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER THE MAY 29 MEETING IN JALAPA, NICARAGUA OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS.

2. ACCORDING TO FERNANDO BERROCAL, SECOND MAN IN COSTA RICA'S CAN OFFICE, THE REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT CAME FROM HONDURAN MINISTER OF ECONOMY BENNATON. BENNATON'S REASON FOR SEEKING POSTPONEMENT WAS THAT ALL THE CACM EXPERTS AND IN PARTICULAR THOSE OF HONDURAS, WOULD BE NEEDED TO PREPARE  
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THEIR COUNTRY'S POSITIONS FOR THE PRESIDENTS' MEETING AND COULD

NOT BE SPARED FOR THE MORE TECHNICALLY-ORIENTED CAN MEETING  
AT THIS TIME.

3. WHILE OBVIOUSLY DISAPPOINTED WITH THE POSTPONEMENT,  
BERROCAL EXPLAINED THAT HE BELIEVED HONDURAS' POINT WAS VALID  
IN THAT ALL THE WORK THAT THE CAN HAS BEEN DOING ON THE TECHNICAL  
SIDE ULTIMATELY DEPENDS ON ARRIVAL AT A SOLUTION TO THE  
POLITICAL PROBLEM OF THE HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR DISPUTE  
WHICH THE PRESIDENTS' MEETING WILL TREAT. BERROCAL SAID THERE  
MAY STILL BE AN INFORMAL MEETING HELD TOMORROW SINCE  
SALVADOR'S CAN REPRESENTATIVE, WHO DID NOT AGREE TO POSTPONING  
THE MEETING, AND HONDURAN MINISTER BENNATON, WHO WILL BE IN  
TOWN FOR THE BANANA (UPEB) MEETING, WILL BOTH BE STOPPING BY  
THE COSTA RICAN CAN OFFICES. WHEN QUERIED WITH REGARD TO  
THE CHANCES FOR SUCCESS OF THE UPCOMING PRESIDENTS' MEETING,  
BERROCAL ADMITTED THAT HE WAS NOT VERY OPTIMISTIC.

4. COMMENT: WHILE POSTPONEMENT IS DISAPPOINTING  
SINCE IT APPEARS THAT MOST OF THE PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE CAN  
MEETING WAS COMPLETE AND EVERYTHING WAS SET TO GO, THIS  
DEVELOPMENT APPEARS TO BE ONLY A MINOR SETBACK. A NEW DATE  
FOR THE SAN JOSE CAN MEETING SHOULD BE SET AFTER THE NICARAGUA  
MEETING IS COMPLETED AND, HOPEFULLY, WORK AT THE TECHNICAL  
LEVEL WILL CONTINUE TO GO FORWARD AT THE PACE ANTICIPATED PRIOR  
TO THE MEETING'S POSTPONEMENT.  
LANE

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NNN

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Subject:** COMMON MARKET'S HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE MEETING POSTPONED  
**TAGS:** AORG, CS, XK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005